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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Pepinsky et al.

Serial No: 10/802,540

Filed: March 16, 2004

For: *Polymer Conjugates of Interferon Beta-1a
and Uses*

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

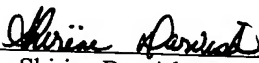
Art Unit: 1646

Confirmation No.: 4023

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Shirine Darvish

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Claims 1-40 (canceled)

41. (newly added) A composition comprising a glycosylated interferon-beta-1a comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in any one of SEQ ID NOs: 27-40 coupled to a non-naturally-occurring polymer at an N-terminal end of said glycosylated interferon-beta-1a, said polymer comprising a polyalkylene glycol moiety.
42. (newly added) The composition of claim 41, wherein the polyalkylene moiety is coupled to the interferon-beta by way of a group selected from an aldehyde group, a maleimide group, a vinylsulfone group, a haloacetate group, plurality of histidine residues, a hydrazine group and an aminothioliol group.
43. (newly added) The composition of claim 41, wherein the interferon-beta-1a of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 27-40 is an interferon-beta-1a fusion protein.